UNITED EVANGELICAL Action

DECEMBER 15, 1957

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VOICE OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIA... ...A

- Jesus the Christ Born of a Virgin
- Sequel to the Christmas Story

OFFICIAL NAE ORGAN

Readers Say—

Moody History

To the Editor:

We are gathering and organizing historical material on D. L. Moody, especially in view of the coming seventy-fifth anniversary of Moody Bible Institute in 1961, D.V. If any of your readers have original letters, photographs, clippings, or similar material concerning Moody or the early days of the Institute, I should like very much to hear from them.

We are especially interested in the following: Information on Moody's activities in the U. S. Christian Commission during the Civil War, and also in YMCA work during the Spanish American War; photographs, admission tickets, etc., of Moody's campaign in the tabernacle at Monroe and Franklin Streets, Chicago, in 1876, and an illustration of the huge Forepaugh circus tent at Madison Street and the lake front during the Chicago World's Fair campaign of 1893.

We should also like to have any *definite* information on voice recordings of Dr. R. A. Torrey and Dr. James M. Gray.

BERNARD R. DEREMER
Moody Bible Institute
820 North LaSalle St.
Chicago, Ill.

So Say We All

To the Editor:

Please let me protest against the films shown to our children that feature horror, murder and disrespect to parents and property.

MRS. KENNETH R. CUMMINGS
Oceanlake, Ore.

Population Growth

To the Editor:

Your "World Wide" news article on "Big Population Growth Concerns Evangelicals" (*Action*, August 15, 1957) states a new situation facing America. It is a serious one. It is difficult to cope with because it deals with personal liberty, which is deeply entrenched in human nature.

The large number of children one sees everywhere and the moral depravity that is known to exist leads one to conclude that many births are the result of sexual indulgence. This sensual spirit is walking abroad on our streets, is more written about, talked about, than any subject of our day. A generation ago couples married to build a home, and this spirit built America. Today, an opposite viewpoint seems to prevail in the minds of many people. Little regard is given to the problem of providing for the newborn, such as their teen age needs, or how they are to earn a living. The whole nature of this situation is truly one of grave concern.

The huge increase in population places difficult burdens on the tax-payer, for instance. In many places, school facilities are becoming entirely inadequate to give the oncoming generation enough seats and desks while they are studying for a diploma. Another problem is housing. Land that should remain farm country, to provide for the hungry mouths, is being broken up into house-lots, and if this trend continues, there will not be enough food to supply the huge population.

This over-population has given the church a problem. With many new settlements mushrooming overnight, how many people are sufficiently interested in their own spiritual welfare or that of their neighbors to see a house of God go up? The question arises, are many of these new settlements of a permanent order?

We must look into the future with all our problems. America has been a fairly stable land in which to live, but with homes breaking up, due to divorces, and a traveling wanderlust, due to an easy-exit, via the automobile, this country is bound to experience, in part at least, a nomadic population with its attendant problems. Such difficulties as non-registration of births and failure to pay their due taxes are a few of the by-products of over-population.

In the first half of our century there were two major wars and serious depression. It could be that this over-population problem may be the major concern during the second half of this century. Liberty in many ways is becoming untrammelled today with few voices being raised to stay the tide of sin. These experiences do not need a prophet to tell our people that such things cannot continue without their just due of punishment. Is there a precedent one can refer to? Among the lawless element of our society, juvenile delinquency tops the list. What with more young people, there naturally, if this condition continues, will be more problems for the police, the classroom teacher, the tax-collector and the public in general, as well as the church worker.

The era of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah was condemned by God. The entire territory with its population, with the exception of Lot's family, was destroyed. Genesis 19:9 contains a book of knowledge of the conditions of that day. Are we at the door of a similar experience, only upon a much greater circumference? Another reference that can be quoted is that of the Flood. In Genesis 6, the fifth verse, is given the reason for the destruction of all people then existing, with the exception of Noah's family! "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." A similar situation exists, now as then.

The situation before the American people is not one to delight in. "Eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage" are not always signs of a healthy nation. The glamorous things we see make us think of the famous saying: "All is not gold that glitters." Never have people run to and fro as Daniel predicted (12:4) with a similar increase in knowledge. This situation is universal. It is for the pulpit, the business man, the schoolman, etcetera, to face this situation, and if it be possible to enlighten our people that the dangers that face them in the overpopulation of our country is a serious one.

ALBERT O. PLANTINGA
Melrose, Mass.

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111 East Fourth St.
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JAMES DE FOREST MURCH
Editor

VERDA BLOOMHUFF
Office Editor

NAE STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative word of God.

2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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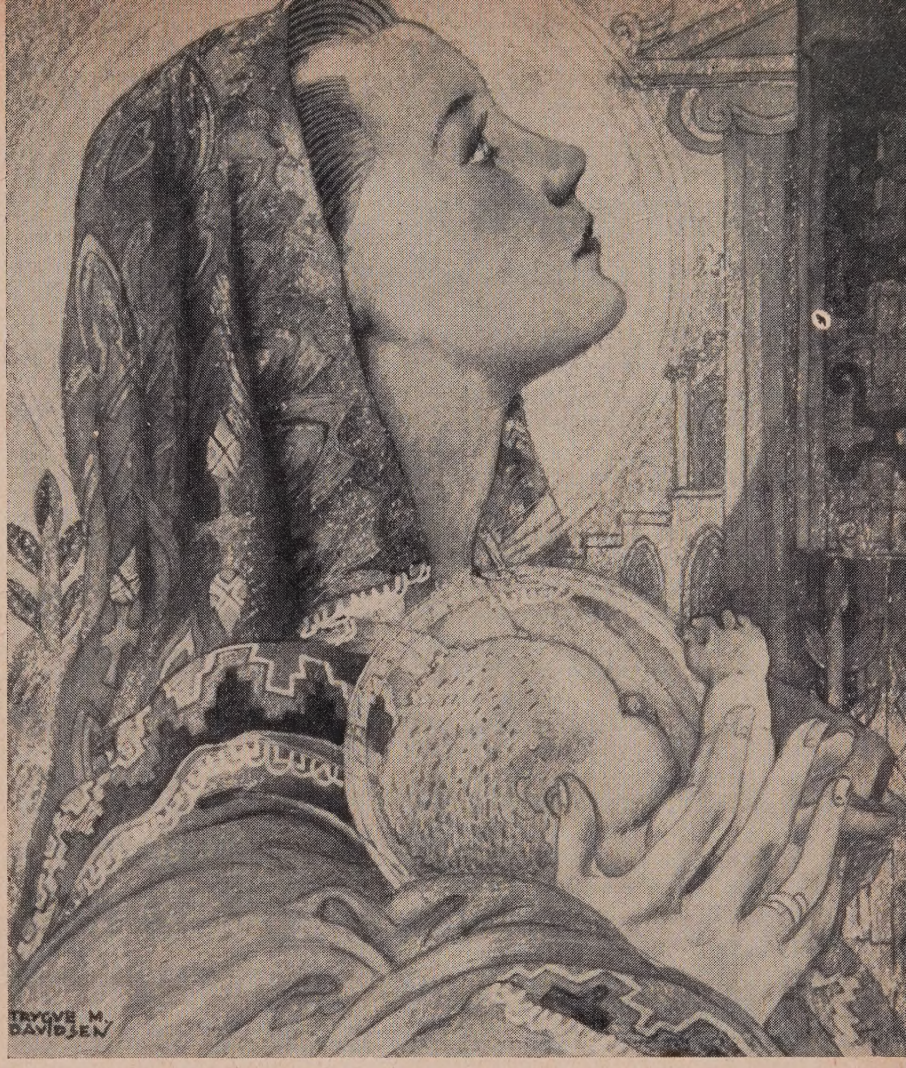
CHRIST, BORN OF A VIRGIN

By HOWARD A. KELLY, M.D.



DO I BELIEVE in the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ as proclaimed in the Scriptures? Yes, most emphatically! To deny this teaching would be equivalent to rejecting other, vital parts of the Scriptures bringing into question the whole Bible as the Word of God.

Yet there are those who say, "I cannot believe in a virgin birth because it is biologically impossible." To such I reply in Gabriel's words to Mary, "With God nothing shall be impossible," Luke 1:37.

I do not expect an inquirer to accept any evidence unless he believes that the Bible is in some real sense the Word of God, offering to man salvation for time and eternity. On the other hand, if the Bible does not offer salvation and eternal life, then the Old Testament is but a temporal history, and the New Testament becomes a dead, man-made letter, recounting the well-intentioned imaginings of perhaps honest but misguided men. To deny the virgin birth because of its miraculous nature is to deny the validity of all Scripture, which is a continuous series of revelations of the mind and acts of God, and as such is miraculous throughout.

To reject the virgin birth of Christ is to reject His deity, since they are synonymous. Many admit the divinity of Christ but do not acknowledge His deity. To contend that Christ was not born of a virgin by the agency of the Holy Spirit is to reject Him as our Mediator. Denial of the virgin birth robs Christ of the glory He shares with the Father. "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily," Col. 2:9. It furthermore rejects the testimony of Mark that there came "a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," Mark 1:11.

Taught Throughout the Bible

The virgin birth is taught throughout the whole Bible, by implication and repetition in the Old Testament and by declaration and repeated restatements in the New. Since a larger familiarity with the Word of God will bring its own convictions, let us search the Scriptures.

Believing and knowing the facts as we do, how precious is the undertone of the Old Testament Scriptures as to the deity of the expected Messiah! How ideal the merited retribution to the serpent when God pronounced the way of his destruction by the seed of the woman he had misled! "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," Gen. 3:15.

What pictures, too, foreshadow the event! There are Abraham and Isaac, representative of God giving His own Son; Joseph rejected by his brethren; and Moses anticipating our Lord's coming. "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him shall ye hearken," Deut. 18:15.

Throughout the Psalms, too, there is a great undercurrent of God Himself as the forthcoming Deliverer (Psalm 2, quoted seven times in the New Testament; Psalms 8, 22, 40, 45, 110). "The Lord Himself shall give unto you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel," Isa. 7:14. "And the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," Isa. 9:6.

The Testimony of the Gospels

Definite announcements are made in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Matthew's Gospel begins: "The book

* This is a striking testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary. It was written by the late Howard A. Kelly, M.D., for many years professor of gynecology at Johns Hopkins University and chief surgeon and radiologist at Howard A. Kelly Hospital.

of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Then follows the genealogy down to Joseph, Mary's husband, at the time of Christ's birth, from whom by Roman and Jewish law Jesus inherited His right to the throne. Joseph was warned by an angel in a dream that Mary's condition with child was of the Holy Ghost. "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us," Matt. 1:22, 23.

Note in Luke that the angel Gabriel was sent by God to Mary saying: "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He . . . shall be called the Son of the Highest . . . and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever . . . . The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God," Luke 1:30-35.

Here in Luke's first chapter we find life's two vital factors. On the one hand, lack of faith in Zacharias concerning Elisabeth, who in her old age was to bear John the Baptist, whereupon his lips were sealed until the birth of John; and on the other hand, the perfect faith of Mary, to whom Elisabeth cried out, "Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord," Luke 1:45.

The Gospel of Our Lord's Deity

John's Gospel is particularly the Gospel of our Lord's deity. Here we have the clear declaration in the first chapter: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (v. 1). . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (v. 14); John the Baptist's testimony, "And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God" (v. 34). In the fifth chapter are six testimonies to His Sonship: Christ's own claim, the witness of John the Baptist, the witness of the Father, His works, the testimony of the Scriptures, and Moses' testimony. John assures us, "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name," John 20:31.

Christ Affirms His Deity

Christ's claim to Sonship is definite throughout the Gospels, Indeed, it was because of this claim at His trial that He died. When the high priest asked, "I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God." He answered, "Thou hast said," Matt. 26. "I that speak unto thee am He," John 4:26. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am," John 8:58.

Christ's deity is further attested by His teachings—"Never man spake like this man," John 7:46—and by His many miracles. He caused the lame to walk and the blind to see; He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, and cast out demons; and He repeatedly raised the dead, among others, the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:55), the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:15), and, lastly, Lazarus (John 11), dead four days, which brought Him to His own death on the cross. And John comments, "But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him," John 12:37.

Angel Song

From Heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all your earth.

—MARTIN LUTHER

Throughout the Acts and the epistles the apostles again and again emphasize Christ's relationship to God. Peter preached, "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ," Acts 2:36. Paul, fresh from his great vision, emphasizes Christ's deity. "Straightway he preached Christ . . . that He is the Son of God," Acts 9:20.

Twenty-four times in the Acts and in the epistles Paul designates Jesus as the Son of God. John in his First Epistle reveals to us "that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us," I John 1:2. His last message in his epistle is a cry of warning against denial of the relationship of Christ to God as His own Father: "He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son."

If Christ be not the Son of God, there remains no way to deal with the question of sin. Sin separates men infinitely from God, for "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," Rom. 3:23. Any atonement to be effective must be infinite in character. "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Rom. 3:24.

Let us look at the Scriptures in another way. If Christ, the Son of God, was born of a woman of our flesh, the outcome is that God is for the first time brought into an immediate vital relationship with created intelligent beings in the place of Adam and Eve, of whom He had said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness," Gen. 1:26. The relation is intimate as never before, and through the second Adam (Christ) we become partakers of the divine nature (II Pet. 1:4), all previous relations having been external, objective.

Note that Christ's name, Jesus, signified Je (Jehovah) —sus (Himself—Saviour), "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world," I Peter 1:20. And recall His final great prayer to the Father, "And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was," John 17:5.

A Saving Chain

What, then, were the vital steps taken?

1. Conceived in the Virgin Mary of the Holy Ghost.

2. Deity manifested in His life, teachings, and works.

3. The deliberate walk toward the cross and crucifixion that His life might be poured out, a sacrifice of infinite cost for the sins of the world.

4. Resurrection on the third day, conquering death for all who put their trust in Him.

5. Ascent into heaven, to sit on the right hand of God our Father.

6. The Holy Ghost shed forth to be our Comforter, Teacher, Guide, concerning whom He had said, "It is expedient for you that I go away," John 16:7.

To break any link in this chain destroys the whole and makes our Lord Jesus Christ merely man, however great, and leaves Him in His grave, no longer Savior and Redeemer.

Rob Christ of His deity, and every true Christian will at once cry out with a breaking heart: "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." And never again will one be moved by God's Spirit to exclaim, "My Lord, and my God!"

SEQUEL TO THE CHRISTMAS STORY

By GERVAS A. CAREY

"AND YOU shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." It was with these words that an angel of the Lord announced to Joseph the coming of the child who should be the divine Saviour of the world, thus heralding the Christmas message. Later during His ministry Jesus Himself stated that He had come to seek and to save the lost.

The Bible in a very real sense is a treatise of sin and salvation. Some form of the word sin is to be found in fifty-three of its sixty-six books. Further it does not require much discernment to discover indication of the facts or effects of sin in nearly all of the thirteen books in which it is not specifically mentioned.

From its early chapters to its conclusion the Bible likewise carries the theme of salvation. The universality of sin is paralleled by promises of the coming of an Anointed One which culminate in Jesus the Christ. Thus the Christmas message is not merely the Gospel story of the angelic annunciation. It is the dominant note of the Bible as a whole, of the Old Testament as well as of the New. When Jesus came to his own he came to a people whose national literature was saturated with references to sin and to salvation.

Joseph must have been able to grasp but a very meager part of the angelic annunciation. It remained for the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus to enable his friends and followers to recognize him as the Christ, the Anointed of God throughout the Old Testament and as the Foundation Stone on which his church was to be established in the New Testament period.

It may not be amiss to suggest here that the entire Bible with its Christ centered message in reality constitutes an introductory chapter to the Annals of Eternity. It is in the light of this fact that one turns for the sequel to the Christmas story.

The writer to the Hebrews incorporated in his message an annunciation which may be recognized as the sequel to the Christmas story. This will be found in Hebrews 9:28b which is here quoted in four different versions or translations as indicated. In each of these the first half of the verse refers to Christ who was once offered to take away sins. The second half of the verse follows:

"and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."—King James.

"shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation." — American Standard.

"will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."—Revised Standard.

"but again He will appear, without having anything to do with sin, to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him to bring them final salvation."—The New Testament by Charles B. Williams.

In these four versions the preposition first translated "without" is next rendered "apart from," in the third "not to deal with" and finally by Williams, "without having anything to do with." Thayer's Lexicon of the New Testament indicates that there is authority for each translation although in the order quoted there appears to be a progression toward greater clearness of meaning.

This present period of grace during which sinners may find a Saviour is to come to an end. Christ will not return in the role of the Babe in the manger but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Never again will the iniquity of any man be laid upon him. He suffered once for all. No longer will the church proclaim, "Whosoever will may come," but rather, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the almighty reigns."

The final salvation to be brought by Christ's return will be realized in the fulfillment of His promises for the redeemed. It is in this connection that the sequel to the Christmas story will be unfolded throughout the ages to come.

"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Another NCC Monopoly

With a $50,000 assist from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., it looks as if the National Council of Churches is in position to declare a monopoly on another segment of religious life in the United States—the ministry in the National Parks. The Council's program, specializing in placing college and seminary students in a summer ministry in the Parks, is under the direction of the Rev. Warren W. Ost.

Mr. Ost stated that the students minister to "hundreds of thousands of summer tourists and staff personnel." Last year 121 students were accepted under the program. The Rockefeller gift is designed to "expand the work" and to "add necessary personnel."

A spokesman for the National Park Service said that "to our knowledge, all the Protestant seminarians serving in this capacity are placed through the National Council of Churches." It was indicated that this was accepted as a standard procedure by the Park Service.

The regulations of the Service make the superintendent responsible for the arrangements for religious services in the parks. They state that he "should establish an interfaith committee with representatives of the Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths and any other faiths desiring representation on the committee."

"Any (other) faith desiring . . . to sponsor religious services . . . should work in cooperation with the interfaith committee if it expects to use the building available for religious purposes."

The National Council's program last year included five regional training conferences to prepare the students for their summer ministry.

Airline Clergy Fares

Alleghany Airlines became the fifth USA air carrier to file a tariff with the Civil Aeronautics Board here providing reduced fares for clergymen.

The reduction will amount to 50 per cent of the first class fare for all points on the Allegheny system which serves cities in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, with its main terminal at Washington, D. C.

Action Against Obscenity

The Supreme Court recently ruled out a Chicago procedure in banning an obscene movie, "The Game of Love," but at the same time left the door open for prosecution by other legal means.

The Churchmen's Commission for Decent Publications, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., called for prosecution by Chicago authorities under an alternate legal approach. "Prior restraint by boards of censorship is clearly illegal, and churchmen dealing with this problem should understand that, but it does not follow that an exhibitor is immune if he presents a lewd and indecent performance. It would be tragic if this decision which protects us from the possible harm of misguided boards of censors were misconstrued to mean that movie exhibitors now have license to put anything on the screen, however sordid or suggestive it might be," they added.

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"The Chicago police board, an advisory jury impanelled by Federal Judge Sam Perry, the Judge himself, and the Judges of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals all agreed that the movie is obscene," the churchmen pointed out.

The commission said that evidence indicates that a jury might well find the movie obscene within the definition of the Supreme Court in the Alberts case that obscenity can be legally defined as the "presentation of sex in a manner appealing to prurient interest."

Colombian Believer Murdered

Another Colombian evangelical died for his faith on October 29. The "crime" held against him was that he had opened his home to evangelical meetings. The victim was Juan Pablo Coy of Saboya, Boyaca. Two weeks earlier he had been arrested along with the speaker at one of the meetings, Pedro Moreno.

Moreno was jailed for two weeks because he refused to sign a statement that he would stop evangelizing in the area. On October 28 the mayor of Saboya ordered his release, after two inquiries by the Ministry of Government.

Early the following morning Coy was ambushed and attacked near his home. He was fired on three times and died of his wounds the same day.

A report of the murder was submitted to the Colombian Minister of Justice with a request for an official investigation. Coy's death brings to 90 the number of Colombian believers who have died in the religious persecution since 1948.

Argentine Freedom

Reports from Argentina indicate that the Protestant minority is hoping that proposed amendments to the Argentine Constitution will strengthen the guarantee of religious freedom. The Protestant minority is about 2% of the population. There is also a considerable Jewish segment.

All non-Catholic groups are now required to register with the government's office of "cults" under the Department of Foreign Relations. It has been hoped that this procedure would be eliminated, since it implies the possibility of government regulation of the registered groups.

Also it has been hoped that the ban to Protestant expansion would be permanently disavowed. For several years there has been a regulation barring new Protestant work in some areas of the country, although it has been suspended by the provisional government.

The present Constitution states that "the Federal government supports the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion." Only a Catholic may be elected as President or Vice-President.

Argentina does not have a concordat with the Vatican, but there is a "modus vivendi" which governs the system of patronage between the government and the Roman Church.

Draft Call Raised

The Selective Service System has announced that the draft call will be raised to 10,000 in January. For a number of months it has been at the relatively low level of 7,000.

This means that there will be somewhat greater pressure on the local boards to fill their respective quotas, and this tends to raise the rate of problems in the area of ecclesiastical deferments (including ministers, ministerial students and conscientious objectors).

Men in these classifications can usually avoid problems with their draft boards if they give due regard to a few simple rules. Letters to the draft board should be well-worded, concise and should cover all the pertinent facts in the case. The board should be notified of all changes of address and of any changes in the nature of studies or of ministerial duties.

When problems arise the proper denominational officials can frequently give the necessary advice. If additional counsel seems necessary the NAE Washington office may be consulted.

Church Construction Record

Church construction will set a new record of $870,000,000 this year, the Departments of Commerce and Labor predicted here. They said church building would continue at the same pace next year.

Last year's figure of $768,000,000 was the previous record.

Although church construction has been gaining each year since 1953 the government departments believe it will level off next year and not go any higher than in 1957.

The government did forecast, however, a three per cent increase in construction activity by non-public schools and colleges, most of which are church-related. It indicated that $540,000,000 would be spent by these schools on new buildings in 1958, more than offsetting a slight decrease during 1957. Construction by the non-public schools is expected to total $525,000,000 this year, compared with $535,000,00 in 1956.

An increase of 17 per cent is predicted in construction activity by private hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. New buildings erected by these institutions will reach $505,000,000 this year, an increase of 54 per cent over the $328,000,000 reported in 1956. The government agencies say the figure will be $590,000,000 in 1958.

Action Editorial

James DeForest Murch

Star or Satellite?

▪ THE WARMONGERS hold the center of the American scene at this Christmas-time. The blessed peacemakers are in the minority. The masses are looking at the sputnik that heralds an era of unprecedented competition to produce the ultimate in destruction. Only the few will see the Star of Bethlehem that leads men to Christ and "peace on earth, goodwill to men."

When Christ was born only a few saw the star. Caesar Augustus was immersed in the affairs of an empire that was to cover the earth. King Herod was intent on counting his political dividends and plotting new brutalities. The Roman legions, coarsened by their years of professional soldiery, were eating, drinking and making merry, for tomorrow they were to die. The religious leaders of Israel were playing politics with their Roman religious pride, were completely blind to the portent of the heavens.

In our day Caesar's counterpart, Nikita Khrushchev, is blindly atheistic. The dictators in the Soviet satellites are out-heroding Herod. There are more men under arms in peacetime throughout the world than ever before in history. Our religious leaders are obsessed with building the "Coming Great Church."

Peter Marshall once said, "The world is always missing God, because it seeks Him in the wrong places and looks for its salvation in the wrong things." Our hope is not in newer and better satellites. It is rather in the Star of Bethlehem—the Prince of Peace.

Let us at this Christmas season turn our minds to the things which are central and eternal—the things of God. Let us, like the shepherds who saw the star two thousand years ago, rise and tell the world that *"we have seen, and we are come"* as Christians with the only message which can save mankind in such a time as this!

Ecclesiastical Monopoly

▪ AN ECCLESIASTICAL MONOPOLY is taking over the rights of evangelical ministers in the field of the chaplaincy in mental, penal and correctional institutions throughout the United States. The Councils of Churches will soon be in position to bar thousands of worthy men from the privilege of serving the Lord in these needy areas.

We have had several letters from our preacher brethren in Kentucky who relate their sad experiences with the growing Super-Church. Possibly Kentucky is as good an example as any to use in stating the case.

The Governor of Kentucky, the State Welfare Commissioner, the Mental Health Commissioner and the Chairman of the Department of Institutions of the Kentucky Council of Churches have signed a compact to the effect that only ministers recommended by the Kentucky Council of Churches can become Protestant chaplains in the mental, penal and correctional institutions of Kentucky. According to Richard V. Wood of the KCC the agreement is "similar to those being negotiated between the National Council of Churches and the Federal Bureau of Prisons."

Naturally Kentucky and other states desire to have the most competent men in these chaplaincies. The NCC and the KCC offer a very nice "package deal" to public officials in which they promise to do the screening and save the officials from the embarrassment of dealing with "ignorant eccentric, uncooperative or fanatical preachers" who may have a considerable following and may be able to exert harassing political pressures. The Councils have done a good job of "selling" the authorities on the necessity of a fool-proof screening policy. They have also sold them on the idea that the Councils officials represent all Protestants who are intelligent and trustworthy.

In Kentucky the Council has been clever enough to include in its Committee on Chaplains representatives of some major groups who are not officially in the Council. The Southern Baptists have been included. Some evangelical colleges have been recognized. The committee has adopted qualifications as the basis for appointments which appear to be wise and rather harmless.

The "fly in the ointment" is that these representatives have consented to recognize the right of a Super-Church to dictate what Protestant ministers may become chaplains of Kentucky institutions. If they were members of a Committee on Chaplains of the State of Kentucky their situation would be tenable, but as matters stand they have permitted themselves to be used to build an ecclesiastical monopoly which is not only un-Protestant but un-American. They have come dangerously near to outraging the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States as it pertains to the doctrine of the separation of Church and State.

Undoubtedly everything is "sweet and lovely" in the Kentucky chaplaincy situation for everybody but that small minority of worthy evangelical ministers who cannot qualify because they are in the wrong churches and do not know the right people. We are speaking this word for these faithful brethren and for scores of thousands of others like them across the nation who are slowly but surely being deprived of their rights and privileges because of the National Council's and State Councils' determination to become the sole authority for Protestantism in the United States.

The National Association of Evangelicals and its regional and local associations offer the only hope in this situation. We must admit that these agencies have not been too effective in meeting the challenge of the Councils, but this is largely due to the fact that too many evangelical ministers and churches are unwilling to cooperate. The NAE does not seek to build another "super-church." It is not a "council of churches" and does not aspire to be. It is merely a service agency which seeks to protect the rights, privileges and freedoms of all evangelicals. But the NAE is only as effective as united action can make it.

It is time that evangelicals everywhere began to recognize the seriousness of the situation that confronts them. The day may soon come when they cannot buy time on radio or television, plant new congregations, become chaplains, send out foreign missionaries (or any one of a score of other things they now take for granted) unless they have the approval of some local, state, or regional Council of Churches. Evangelicals who are enjoying these privileges now because they have been willing to recognize the authority of these councils are simply promoting the eventual slavery of their brethren to a super-church monopoly.

What are evangelicals willing to do to preserve their freedoms?

Evangelical Newsfront

RNS AND E/P REPORTS

UEA CORRESPONDENCE

united action

NAE 1958 Convention Plans Being Completed

CHICAGO.—The sixteenth annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals will be held in the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, April 15-18.

Dr. Frederick Curtis Fowler, chairman of the program committee, announced at the recent meeting of the NAE Board of Administration that the convention program was taking shape. The theme will be, "Christ, the Hope of Glory."

The convention will open with a prayer meeting Monday night and on Wednesday night there will be a special prayer service for Revival.

The daily schedule has been developed on the basis of a most effective outline: 8:15-11:15 a.m., "The Christian Plans"—commission and agencies meetings; 11:20-12, "The Christian Meditates"—devotional period; 12:15-1:45 p.m., "The Christian Acts"—luncheon meetings; 1:45-2:30, "The Christian Fellowships"—receptions and group fellowship meetings; 2:30-4:30, "The Christian Discerns and Discusses"—business meetings and reports; 7:30-8:15, "The Christian in Song and Story"; 8:15-9:30, "The Christian Believes"—convention mass meetings for inspiration and instruction.

Main convention sessions will be held in the Ball Room of the Sherman. An entire floor is being reserved for the commission and agency meetings and the convention exhibits.

Further announcements concerning the convention will appear in *Action* magazine as released by Wheaton headquarters.

Asks Christian World To Discipline Itself

BOSTON—A leader of the National Association of Evangelicals called upon the Christian world to discipline itself, in the light of Russia's advances in the missiles field, and "return to the Christian principles upon which our western culture is founded."

Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, chairman of the NAE's International Commission, said "That we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting may well be shown in the events just ahead.

"Our indolence, our pleasure-loving, our sinning, our ease-taking, our violation of the Divine law may well have caught up with us."

Dr. Ockenga, pastor of historic Park Street church here, said Americans must discipline themselves by "returning to the righteousness of the law, to faith in Christ, and to ethical living which may well release the guidance and help so necessary to the West in the days ahead."

"Our return to these principles is the safest guarantee of our survival and leadership in the world," he added. "Christians have the great encouragement of knowing that God still rules in the affairs of men and nations."

The clergyman made the statements upon his return here from a six-months sabbatical leave during which he visited ten European countries.

Dr. Ockenga declared that the "great threat of military power and science for the first time makes the fulfillment of certain biblical prophecies a possibility. He called attention to biblical references that there will be signs in the sun, moon and stars before the day of the coming of the Lord.

EVANGELICAL LEADERS at the annual banquet, Midwest Region NAE, in Moody Church, Chicago, Nov. 7. Left to right: Dr. Charles Joseph Anderson, executive director Midwest Region; Dr. Eugene R. Bertermann, president, National Religious Broadcasters, Overseas Operations Director, The Lutheran Hour; Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, Jr. (Ret), director of the Evangelical Welfare Agency of Chicago; also Chaplain (1st Lt.) Robert C. Anderson, 39th Infantry Regiment, U. S. Army, Ft. Carson, Col. (Son of Dr. Anderson).

NAE Conducting Poll On Graham Invitation

CHICAGO—A poll on whether churches would favor a united Protestant invitation for evangelist Billy Graham to conduct a crusade in Chicago and other midwestern cities is being taken by the midwest regional office of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Dr. Charles Anderson, Midwest Region director, has sent letters to 40 denominational headquarters, 345 churches and 8,000 church leaders in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin.

He said the NAE already is committed to bringing Mr. Graham to Chicago and the mail survey will determine whether its members "subscribe to the principles of cooperation with other groups in a joint invitation for a united crusade."

Dr. Anderson also noted that church groups in Des Moines, Peoria, Milwaukee, Fort Wayne and other midwest cities had extended invitations to Mr. Graham.

The Church Federation of Greater Chicago recently sent a questionnaire to its member churches asking their reaction to inviting Mr. Graham here.

Replies to both the Church Federation and NAE polls are expected by January 1.

Board of Administration Reviews NAE Progress

CHICAGO. — Encouraging progress was reported in all departments of the National Association of Evangelicals at the regular mid-year meeting of the Board of Administration in Hotel Sherman here November 5 and 6.

The Washington office has made the evangelical testimony clear and strong in the field of public affairs. During the year it has dealt effectively with liquor issues, immigration, social security, religious liberty, human rights, obscene literature, separation of church and state and other problems as they presented themselves in various phases of government.

The World Relief Commission will ship over 4,000,000 pounds of Government surplus foods and 500,000 pounds of wearing apparel to needy evangelicals in various nations. Over $100,000 in ocean freight subsidies have been granted the Commission. Greece and Vietnam are being added to the official distribution centers.

Emphasis is being laid on the establishment of local evangelical fellowships. All regional organizations reported encouraging results. The Southwest Region has prepared a constitution for use of local groups. The Tacoma, Wash. area has opened an office with a part-time executive secretary.

An adjustment has been made in plans for the future development of the Central and Upper Midwest regions. Rev. Mahlon L. Macy, Central Regional director, will be transferred from Wichita, Kan., to Wheaton headquarters. He will work out of that office serving both regions and areas where new organizations are contemplated. Offices will be maintained at Wichita and Minneapolis.

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New England will be temporarily served out of the Eastern regional office. Vermont and New Hampshire evangelicals are growing anxious to set up an NAE-related regional office.

Evangelical Welfare Associations are in various stages of development in several metropolitan centers. The largest is in Chicago where the operation has already assumed a large place in the life of the evangelical community. The Board of Administration accepted the report of a committee headed by Dr. Charles Seidenspinner which sets a pattern for future development. Syracuse, N. Y., Los Angeles, Calif., and Pittsburgh, Pa., are making encouraging progress toward organization. At the national level EWA authority will rest with the NAE Commission on Social Action.

City planning came in for considerable discussion in connection with the report of the Commission on Evangelism and Church Extension. The NAE is now officially represented in planning organizations at the national level and is working out a strategy to protect the interests of its constituency in this important field.

A large number of individual local churches were received as members of the NAE.

inter-church

NHA To Hold 90th Annual Convention

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The 90th Annual Convention of the National Holiness Association will be held April 8-10, 1958 at Hotel Sherman in Chicago.

Executive Director Paul L. Kindschi, has announced the theme of the convention will be, "Proclaming the Wesleyan Message." Seven public addresses will be delivered by leaders in the movement. Daily seminars will be conducted in the areas of doctrine, evangelism, education, missions, camp meetings, Christian homes, youth, Sunday Schools, and visual aids.

The Executive Committee is composed of Dr. Myron F. Boyd, director and speaker of the Light and Life Hour radio broadcast; Dr. Paul S. Rees, pastor of the First Covenant Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dr. Roy S. Nicholson, president of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; Bishop Leslie R. Marston, senior bishop of the Free Methodist Church of North America; the Reverend Kenneth E. Geiger, general superintendent of the United Missionary Church; and Morris W. Davis, Nazarene layman of Indianapolis, Indiana. These men represent a constituency of 21 Holiness denominations, 160 state and county auxiliary groups, 60 colleges and seminaries, and 12 foreign missionary boards, all of which espouse the experience of the infilling of the Holy Spirit along lines of the Wesleyan distinctives.

The National Holiness Association, with offices at 1128 Metropolitan Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is launching the most aggressive program of its 91 years of service. Dr. Kindschi reports that he "finds a new surge of interest in deeper life among evangelicals everywhere." He adds that "we of the Wesleyan persuasion are more interested in uniting our witness with all for a real movement of the Holy Ghost than we are in insisting on certain shibboleths of the past."

Non-Catholics in USA Gain Over Romanists

WASHINGTON, D. C.—According to recent releases here, Protestants and Jews in the United States increased four times as rapidly as Roman Catholics in the past half-century. In 1906, Roman Catholics were 16.5% of the whole American population; in 1956, they were 20%, an increase of 3.5%. During the same period, non-Catholics increased from 24.3% to 40% for a gain of over 15%.

Also noted was the fact that of the 531 members of Congress, 94 or 17.5% are Roman Catholic, and of the 48 governors, five or 9.6% are Roman Catholic.

"Confessional" Bodies Discuss World Council

GENEVA—A two-day informal consultative meeting of executives of "world confessional bodies" was held here.

The conference, first of its kind, was presided over by Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist of Geneva, executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation. He convened the meeting at the request of other world denominational groups.

Purpose of the gathering was to discuss common concerns and problems, and relations with the World Council of Churches.

In addition to discussing relations with the World Council the delegates dealt with the relationships of their bodies to church unions and united Churches.

Representatives explained that the Baptist World Alliance was necessarily neutral towards the World Council because the alliance is fairly equally divided between groups favoring and opposing the council.

The participants appeared to be strongly in favor of keeping future contacts on an informal basis and avoiding the creation of a world organization which might develop into a super church.

New York Has 1,589 Protestant Churches

NEW YORK—(RNS)—There are 1,589 Protestant churches in New York City served by 1,498 clergymen, according to latest statistics released here.

Brooklyn has more houses of worship than any other of the five boroughs: 487 churches of 48 denominations served by 451 ministers. Manhattan comes a close second with 482 churches of 63 denominations and 460 ministers.

Queens has 339 churches of 34 denominations served by 324 pastors; The Bronx 190 churches of 31 denominations and 175 clergymen; and Richmond (Staten Island) 91 churches of 20 denominations with 80 ministers.

The figures are from the 1957-58 edition of the Protestant Directory published by the Protestant Council of the City of New York.

The directory also lists 584 churches

LATE NEWS AT PRESS TIME

● FRED G. FERRIS has accepted appointment as the Overseas Secretary of NAE's Commission for World Evangelical Fellowship. He is now on a world tour and will return for the annual NAE convention in Chicago next April. Mr. Ferris was formerly director of the LeTourneau missions operation in Liberia.

● CHILD EVANGELISM headquarters announces that annual "Child Evangelism Week" will be observed February 16-23. Special church services, banquets and rallies stressing the reaching of children for Christ will be held throughout the nation. Governors of various states are proclaiming the Week as a means of combating juvenile delinquency.

● DR. E. T. DAHLBERG, former president of the American Baptist Convention, was elected head of the National Council of Churches at its triennial general assembly in St. Louis. A social-gospel liberal, he has been associated with a number of Communist-front organizations. A report of the St. Louis meeting will appear in the January 1 issue.

● AFRICAN GHANA is the scene of the Assembly of the International Missionary Council December 28-January 8. Africa is No. 1 "hot spot" in the plan to merge the IMC with the World Council of Churches. Strategists headed by Dr. John A. Mackay expect the African meet to break down all barriers to merger. The Ghana Assembly will be followed by an "All-Africa Church Conference" in Nigeria, January 10-20.

● HOLY TRINITY Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., scene of a long and bitter dispute over Communist-fronter Rev. William Howard Melish, will soon install Dr. Herman S. Sidener as its local pastor.

● ANTI-PROTESTANT animosity in Colombia is hindering the educational work of the Mennonite Brethren Church in La Cumbre, Valle. The NAE has asked the State Department to take appropriate action. At the same time NAE Director Ford commended "State" for its efforts to safeguard American interests.

● OKLAHOMA VOTERS defeated by over 61,000 votes a proposed constitutional amendment providing for county option elections on 3.2 beer. Prohibition forces will try again in their long-range efforts to return Oklahoma to the "dry column."

● DADE COUNTY, Florida (Miami) has adopted the zoning program of the National Council of Churches in future city planning. Sites for new churches must be cleared with the Greater Miami Council of Churches.

and 575 ministers in neighboring Nassau and Westchester counties, making a grand total of 2,173 Protestant churches and 2,073 ministers in the area.

Fund for Republic to Conduct Religion Study

NEW YORK—An inquiry into the role of religion in American life will be made by the Fund for the Republic, Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, president, announced here. Eight consultants have been named to conduct the study including "liberal" Protestants, Jews and Roman Catholics.

Dr. Hutchins said the study would deal with relations between Church and State, the role of religion in public life, and religious dissent.

Among the issues to be covered, he said, are the religious pressure group, its rights, duties and effect on freedom; the use of public funds to assist church-supported education; released time religious instruction and "moral guidance" programs in the public schools; and "bloc-voting."

"Special studies and research will be commissioned from qualified individuals and institutions," the announcement said. "From time to time leading spokesmen for the various faiths, as well as representatives of the non-religious point of view, will be called on for consultation."

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, vice-president of Union Theological Seminary here, and Father John Courtney Murray, S. J., professor of theology at Woodstock (Md.) College, will coordinate the religion project.

"Growing Super-Church" Headquarters Building

NEW YORK—America's first national headquarters building for "the growing super-church" will be a reality by 1960. Dedication of the site and symbolic ground breaking ceremonies were held November 17 for the headquarters, to be known as "The Inter-Church Center." It will cost $19,700,000.

The nineteen-story building is being erected on a block-size site made available by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., next door to famed Riverside Church.

The Center will house various denominations, their boards and agencies, now occupying separate structures in New York City. It also will bring under one roof the 70 church-supported program units of the National Council of Churches and its staff of approximately 700, now scattered at eight different addresses in the city.

Edmund F. Wagner, president of the Center's Board of Trustees, said that the building will have two floors of especially designed joint facilities for the use of all tenants, and underground parking for 130 cars. A pedestrian tunnel under 120th Street will provide access to the meeting rooms and numerous other facilities of Riverside Church.

Tracing the development of the project, Mr. Wagner said:

"Successive efforts to establish such a joint national headquarters for the Churches have been initiated hopefully over the years. Now the actual beginning of construction is a culmination of these dreams. The dedication of the site and the breaking of ground mark an important milestone in the cooperative work of Protestant, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox communions."

The National Council of Churches will occupy four of the eighteen office floors in the building with its 70 year-round operations carried on in behalf of 30 Protestant, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox church bodies with a membership of 37,400,000.

"At long last the cooperative movement of the churches is to have a single address for its national home," said Dr. Roy G. Ross, general secretary of the National Council. "For the first time in its history, all the activities of the Council will be housed under one roof. Since it was constituted in 1950 the Council has had eight different addresses in New York City in addition to having had one of its main

NCC HEADQUARTERS building rising near Riverside Church, New York City. It will cost $19,700,000.

divisions (Christian Education) situated in Chicago."

Agencies of the Presbyterian Church, USA—which have been at 156 Fifth Avenue for almost half a century, are moving into three full floors of the Center.

The Methodist Board of Missions, the Committee on Overseas Relief and Methodist Information will occupy another three floors. Agencies of the American Baptist Convention have leased two tower floors, and the Reformed Church in America and its boards will occupy another tower floor. Agencies of the African Methodist Episcopal Church also are moving into the Center.

Two divided floors will provide offices for the World Council of Churches, the International Missionary Council, the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, and The Hymn Society of America.

Space in the Center also has been allocated to: American Leprosy Missions, Inc.; Commission of the Churches on International Affairs; Council for Clinical Training; Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan; The Japan International Christian University Foundation; Ludhiana Christian Medical College Committee; John Milton Society; Vellore Christian Medical College Board; World Convention of Churches of Christ (Disciples); and World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association.

education

C. E. Wilson Library Dedicated at Anderson

ANDERSON, Ind.—Highlighting the Homecoming for Anderson College this year was dedication of the new Charles E. Wilson Library. Valued at $620,000, it was dedicated debt-free and named for the former Secretary of Defense, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the college.

In the principal address, Mr. Wilson said: "I am particularly pleased to . . . have a part in dedicating this fine new library . . . I am pleased that we are here dedicating a library as a part of a liberal arts college with a religious background . . . because I feel certain that . . . the final problems of the world . . . cannot be solved in the technical areas alone."

Members of the retiring Secretary's family presented the college with an oil portrait of Mr. Wilson, together with a letter of greeting and commendation from President Eisenhower.

Culter Academy Students From All Over the World

LOS ANGELES, — The private school, Culter Academy, has an international flavor. It is a haven for students who come to it from all over the world for their education, it was revealed by John Blanchard, president.

Among the almost 400 students attending the Academy, located at 231 So. Westmoreland Avenue in Los Angeles, are 28 young people whose parents are missionaries residing and working in various parts of the world.

Among them are the four children of Dick Hillis, director of "The Orient Crusades," and currently in the Philippine Islands. Also among them are the three children of Clarence Preedy, missionary in China. During World War II they were imprisoned in a concentration camp on the Philippines.

Others have come from Japan, Hong Kong, Formosa, Haiti, different countries in South America and Nigeria, Africa.

Wheaton Professor Is 1957 Thomas Lecturer

DALLAS, Tex.—The W. H. Griffith Thomas Memorial Lectureship for 1957, held recently at Dallas Theological Seminary, was conducted by Dr. Kenneth S. Kantzer, chairman of the division of biblical studies and apologetics at Wheaton, College. His subject was "Revelation and Inspiration in Neo-Orthodox Theology." Dr. Kantzer also gave a more popular series of addresses in Chafer Chapel each night for the Christian public of Dallas on the subject, "The Word of God in a Changing World."

These lectures were part of the program of the Christian Workers' Conference, which included in addition three hours daily of lectures on special themes by professors of Dallas Seminary.

Lecturer for 1958 will be Dr. Everett F. Harrison, professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. The 1958 Lectureship will be held November 11-14.

FTS Introduces Ministers' Course

PASADENA, Calif.—A special program of refresher courses in theology and allied fields for ministers was introduced this year at Fuller Theological Seminary. Called "Ministers' Mondays," these courses during the past quarter drew clergymen of various denominations from as far away as San Diego.

Especially popular during the fall quarter was the course in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Dr. William Sanford LaSor, instructor, had visited Bible Lands several times in recent years and had seen the "Scrolls Cave." On the basis of this experience he authored the book, "The Amazing Dead Sea Scrolls and the Christian Faith."

BILLY GRAHAM visits Fuller Theological Seminary on his recent trip to the West Coast to prepare for his forthcoming San Francisco crusade. Left to right: Dr. Charles E. Fuller, Dr. Graham and Dr. Edward J. Carnell, Fuller president.

Southern Presbyterians Join Japan University

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(RNS)—The Board of World Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern) unanimously voted here to apply for membership in the Japan International Christian University Foundation.

At the same time it made an initial appropriation of $10,562 towards operating expenses of the university and new construction.

The actions ended eight years of discussion among Southern Presbyterians over their relationship to the university, which was founded near Tokyo in 1949. Most Southern Presbyterian missionaries in Japan had opposed cooperation by the denomination with the university until the school clearly established that it was thoroughly Christian in outlook and influence.

The board's decision to join the foundation came after both the latter's trustees and the trustees of the university agreed to put in the JICU constitution the doctrinal basis of the World Council of Churches which affirms its acceptance of "Jesus Christ as God and Savior."

public affairs

Voters Approve Bingo Amendment

ALBANY, N. Y.—(RNS)—A proposed constitutional amendment legalizing bingo games operated by religious, charitable, fraternal and similar non-profit groups was approved by New York votors.

Returns from 10,517 of the state's 11,342 districts showed 1,633,622 votes in favor of the amendment and 1,018,645 opposed.

New York becomes the ninth state to legalize bingo and similar games of chance.

The amendment permits cities, towns and villages to hold referenda to determine whether bingo should be permitted within their boundaries.

Catholic Encroachments Condemned by Baptists

HARLAN, Ky.—(RNS)—The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, at its annual meeting here, asked state officials to halt "Roman Catholic encroachments" on the public schools of Marion County.

A unanimously-adopted resolution called on Gov. A. B. Chandler and the State Board of Education:

1. "To enforce the laws prohibiting sectarian religious training in the public schools;

2. "To end religious discrimination in the public schools of Marion County;

3. "To provide an efficient and uniform system of public schools within Marion County that will afford all the children in the county equal education opportunities."

The resolution said that "a Roman Catholic-dominated county school board in Marion County has persistently pursued policies that favor the Catholic population of the county and that discriminate against the non-Catholic population."

The Baptists charged that a Kentucky Court of Appeals order to "correct abuses" had not been carried out by the school board.

The resolution said the court had held that the Catholic religion was being taught in two public schools in the county. The schools are in the western part of the county which has a predominantly Catholic population.

The St. Francis property, owned by the Catholic Church, was formerly a parochial school but is now rented to the county board of education. The St. Charles school is public property. However, the teachers in both are mostly garbed Catholic nuns, the Baptists said.

Sheriffs Clean Up Obscene Literature

RALEIGH, N. C. —(RNS)— The North Carolina Sheriffs Association has asked local police authorities to rid newsstands of 51 publications it considers obscene.

The list includes 20 crime and love comic books and 31 other magazines. It was compiled by a special committee of the association comprising a

The Eastern European Mission Announces the Inauguration of

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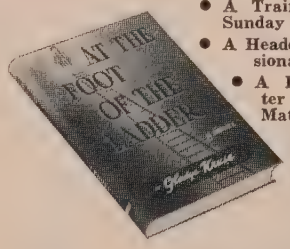

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clergyman, a school board chairman, a social worker, the head of a county juvenile planning board, a newspaperman and a businessman.

A law enacted early this year by the legislature outlaws the sale or distribution of obscene magazines, books, pamphlets, pictures and movies in the state. It also defines the word "obscene."

The definition was prepared by the American Law Institute after six years of study.

Sheriffs have notified wholesale and retail dealers that they will be prosecuted if the publications on the committee's list are not removed.

In some counties sheriffs have organized citizens' groups to serve as advisory bodies in cleaning up newsstands. These groups consist of clergymen, educators and other civic leaders.

Denver Realtors to End Sunday Sales

DENVER—(RNS)—Directors of the Denver Board of Realtors voted unanimously to end open-house showing of homes on Sundays effective Dec. 1.

Norman La Selle, secretary of the board, said, "From the remarks I've heard from the salespeople cooperation will be close to 100 per cent. The action was asked by the brokers themselves, and if they request it it stands to reason that it will be followed."

The move was made without any pressure from religious groups, Mr. La Selle said. "But many salesmen have told me, 'Thank heavens we can finally get to church on Sunday,'" he said.

One Denver realtor, Max Moore, said "we plan to run pictures of churches, saying 'This is our open house.'"

Alabama Baptists Ask Continued Segregation

MOBILE, Ala.—(RNS)—The Alabama Baptist State Convention went on record here in favor of maintaining public school segregation "at this time." It also deplored the limitation of jury trials in civil rights cases.

Some 2,000 messengers (delegates) to the Convention's annual meeting took this stand in approving the report of the group's Christian Life Commission.

Reaffirming the commission's position of last year on the public school segregation issue, the report said "we see no new factors which justify a radical change in our position."

"Public school segregation, it seems to us," the report added, "is in the best interest of a peaceful, progressive Christian society at this time."

Virginia Churches May Set Up Private Schools

FARMVILLE, Va.—(RNS)—A test of whether Southern churches are willing to cooperate with proposals to close the public schools in favor of a private system that would continue segregation may come soon in Prince Edward County.

Pro-segregation leaders said they would seek the closing of public schools as soon as Federal Judge Sterling Hutcheson of Richmond sets a firm date for the admission of Negro children to previously white schools. The judge was ordered to do so by the Fourth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Baltimore, Md., which said an early date must be set for the start of integration.

This is expected to be the first test of the "massive resistance" doctrine favored by Gov. Thomas B. Stanley of Virginia and other Southern leaders as a means of evading the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools.

Under this plan public schools would be converted to private schools with the state giving parents a tuition allowance.

It also will be the first test of the extent to which Southern churches would cooperate in such a plan. County leaders have called upon the churches to make facilities available for the proposed new private school system. Some have envisioned a system of church-operated private schools as the ultimate answer to the Supreme Court ruling. Most county churches have not yet committed themselves on the question.

All 127 teachers and school administrators in the county would be employed by the Prince Edward Educational Corporation which has raised $200,000 in capital subscription from local citizens.

Highest Divorce Rate In the Western States

MEDFORD, Ore.—Statistics from the United Press, released here through *The Medford Tribune*, show that western states have more divorces than any other part of the country. Three California counties, with more divorces each year than marriages, produced this UP comment: "The only spots on earth with more divorces per capita are Moslem areas."

A United Press survey points out that the divorce rate is higher in the western states than elsewhere because (1) divorce laws are more lenient, (2) large out-of-state population is moving into western areas, and (3) one partner of couples moving west fails to adjust to changed conditions as quickly as the other. An example of cost of these broken homes was cited: California alone pays $60,000,000 a year to help support children from such homes and sixty per cent of its juvenile delinquents come from the same homes.

Help Make Possible Evangelical Hospital of Puerto Rico

The association for the construction of an Evangelical Hospital for Puerto Rico seeks $400,000 dollars to construct, equip and operate a hundred bed general hospital, with a fifty bed-ward capacity, in accordance with present state and federal government requisites. These funds will be paired with twice that amount, from Federal aid, under the Hospital Construction Act. Funds must be raised among the Christian Evangelical Protestants in the island and on the Continent.

Present assets: (1) Official promise of a four-acre lot, in beautiful Puerto Nuevo, one of the most heavily populated city suburbs of San Juan. (2) The promised cooperation of twenty-one physicians and dentists, all Class A medical graduates, many of whom are leaders in their specialties. (3) The promised cooperation of a large number of graduate nurses, technical and non-technical personnel.

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Evangelical Hospital Association of Puerto Rico

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POAU to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Plans for the Tenth National Conference on Church and State, scheduled for February 10-11 at First Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, were discussed at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and National Advisory Council of POAU held here December 3. New officers were elected and a ten-year review of the organization's work presented.

Among the highlights of the Tenth Conference will be a Founders' Ceremony and presentation of two awards to champions of religious liberty for their 1957 endeavors.

denominations

Foursquare Convention Slated for Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—"Evangelism—Our Unfinished Task" is the theme for the 35th annual convention of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, slated to be held at the denomination's headquarters, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, Jan. 29-Feb. 6, announces Dr. N. M. Van Cleave, conclave head.

Workshops, seminars, panel discussions and special evening services are planned throughout the eight-day event for the more than 1,000 delegates expected to register from the States and other countries, advises Dr. Van Cleave.

Dr. Clyde Narramore, evangelical Christian, leading psychologist and consultant in research and guidance with one of the largest school systems in America, will conduct two seminars, reveals Dr. Van Cleave. Missionaries home on furlough are to be featured in meetings highlighting the foreign field efforts of the organization, he added.

The convention will climax with the annual LIFE Bible College alumni dinner at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club Feb. 6. Dr. Harold W. Jefferies, veteran Foursquare pastor of Portland, Ore., will be speaker. Reunion, according to Bert Roberson, dinner chairman, has an unusual design as a "must" for all graduates and former students of the college. He suggests early reservations.

missions

Park Street Church In Missions Meeting

BOSTON—At the Annual Missionary Conference held recently at Park Street Church, missionary history of the church was recalled dating back to 1819 when the first Park Street missionaries set out for Hawaii. Since that time Park Street Church—Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, minister—has increased its missionary outreach until it lays claim to supporting "the largest single group of missionaries from any American church." Today 120 Park Street missionaries carry the Gospel to fifty countries on five continents. The church has an annual budget of over $400,000.

In this historic church, "America" was first sung in public (see *Action*, November 15); the American Temperance Society was founded (1826), and William Lloyd Garrison gave Boston his first public address against slavery (1829).

Nile Mission Press Operates in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon. — (MNS) — The Nile Mission Press, founded more than 50 years ago in Cairo, Egypt as a center for the printing and distribution of Christian literature in the Arabic language for all of the Middle East, has resumed operations under a new set-up in Beirut. A program of publication work is being organized under direction of D. T. L. Howell there, in cooperation with a committee in England and America.

Nile Mission Press, whose work was interrupted last year at the time of the Suez crisis, was founded in 1905 by Samuel M. Zwemer and others.

assemblies

Winona Lake Assembly Chooses New Leaders

WINONA LAKE, Ind.—Winona Lake Christian Assembly, located here in what is known as "America's Christ-Centered Vacationland," recently named the following men to places of leadership: Dr. Louis T. Talbot, chancellor of the Los Angeles Bible Institute, president of the Corporation; Dr. Alva J. McClain, president of Grace Theological Seminary, vice-president of the Corporation; Dr. Paul R. Bauman, president of the Home Missions Council of the Brethren Church, chairman of the Board of Directors; Rev. Lloyd H. Knox, publisher, Free Methodist Publishing House, secretary; Rev. John Rae, member of the Evangelical Alliance Mission Board, and professor of archeology, Grace Theological Seminary, treasurer; Dr. J. Palmer Muntz, pastor Cazenovia Park Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York, Bible Conference director; Rev. John Andrews, Jr., executive manager, Winona Lake Christian Assembly, Inc.

Western Conference Enlarges Its Program

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—A four-point program for strengthening and enlarging their organization was adopted by members of the Western Conference and Camp Association at its annual convention held recently at Mission Springs Conference Grounds near Santa Cruz. The group, composed of 47 church-related camps in the Western States decided to (1) publish a house organ six times a year, (2) launch a legislative program to help protect the interests of Christian camps, (3) institute a plan of cooperative purchasing, and (4) engage an executive secretary. Graham Tinning, manager of Forest Home Conference Grounds near Redlands, Calif., was named executive secretary.

Outstanding speakers at the convention included Dr. Robert Walker, editor of *Christian Life;* Rev. R. L. Cramer, former pastor and consulting psychologist to the county schools in Fres-

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HELP NAE IN KOREA

Financial aid is necessary if the National Association of Evangelicals in Korea is to survive and to serve the Korean churches effectively.

Funds may be channeled through Rev. J. Elmer Kilbourne, The Oriental Missionary Society, P. O. Box 307, Winona Lake, Ind.

no, and California Senator Nelson S. Dilworth.

Walter A. Warkentin, managing director of Hume Lake Conference near Fresno, was elected president of the group for the fourth consecutive term.

evangelism

Graham Preparing for San Francisco Crusade

SAN FRANCISCO—Evangelist Billy Graham said a giant crusade was being planned for San Francisco next spring because a "spiritual torch in this strategic city . . . could have a tremendous impact on the world."

Mr. Graham and his aides were here to prepare for the six-weeks crusade scheduled to start April 27 in San Francisco's huge Cow Palace arena.

The evangelist spoke to several groups connected with the local crusade planning, including a luncheon meeting of some 1400 Protestant clergymen. He also addressed a dinner attended by 1300 laymen and civic leaders.

Mr. Graham told the clergymen that his campaigns were designed to "appeal to the intellect, the emotions and the will."

"If the evangelist reaches just one of these facets, the results will be a part-time Christian," he said.

A full-time staff of eight will work on the crusade program at headquarters which have been opened in downtown San Francisco.

youth

"Christ First" Motto YFC Christmas Seals

WHEATON, Ill.—For the sixth consecutive year Youth for Christ International is helping to put Christ back into Christmas by sending out more than 2,000,000 Christmas seals to friends of YFCI in the United States and Canada, according to YFC's executive director, Evon Hedley. Printed in three colors, the seals bear the inscription, "This Christmas—Christ First!"

Free sheets of these seals may be obtained from YFC headquarters, 109 North Cross Street, Wheaton, Ill.

YFCI Conducts Leaders Seminar

WHEATON, Ill.—A "first" of this type project conducted by Youth for Christ International was the four-day West Coast leaders' seminar held recently at Los Angeles Pacific College. Full time YFC personnel from five West Coast states shared in the refresher courses and training sessions. Speakers included YFCI's president, Dr. Ted W. Engstrom; Dr. Bob Cook, vice-president of Scripture Press and chairman of YFCI's Board of Directors; Ben Weiss, California educator and member of the YFCI board, and Dr. Samuel Sutherland, president of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

It is Youth for Christ International's plan to conduct similar schools annually in the seven regions of the country directed by area vice-presidents.

NSSA Youth Group Planning for Future

CHICAGO.—"The mission of evangelical youth organizations today is to reach the 70% of American youth who are not now attending any church or Sunday School," stated Rev. Gunnar Hoglund, chairman of the Youth Commission of the National Sunday School Association in its meeting at Grand Rapids, Michigan, recently.

The commission urged that evangelical youth organizations give full co-operation to the established social agencies to assist in rehabilitating delinquent youth; and that through both denominational and interdenominational youth organizations represented by membership in the Commission, emphasis be given to evangelize these millions of unchurched teen-agers.

A long range planning committee was appointed by the Commission to develop a five-year program of action to serve evangelical youth. Included in the areas to be studied are Evangelism, Missions, Stewardship, Education, Consecration and Vocations. The following were named to serve on this committee: Rev. Joseph Bubar, Chicago; Mr. Charles Hummel, Chicago; Mr. O. W. Polen, Cleveland, Tenn.; Mr. Ponder Gillihand, Kansas City, Kansas; and Mr. Tom McIntyre, Marion, Indiana.

Youth Week was established for January 2, 1958 and all groups affiliated with the Youth Comission were urged to give recognition to this event.

world-wide

Bishops in DDR Attacked by Reds

GENEVA. —(EPS)— Tension between church and state in East Germany continues to mount following the reading of a letter from all Protestant pulpits on October 13. The letter, prepared by Protestant bishops in the German Democratic Republic, strongly criticized the attempt of Communist party secretary Walter Ulbricht to associate all organs of state in East Germany with the drive to enlist young people for the Communist-sponsored youth dedication ceremonies planned to be held again next spring.

The letter underlined the fact that state sponsorship of the ceremonies violated assurances given by the East German government in 1956 that they would be entirely voluntary and independent of state control. The bishops declared that boys and girls leaving school must decide between the secular ceremony and confirmation. They stressed that any combination of the

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two alternatives was unthinkable.

A sharp reaction to the reading of the letter came from East German Home Affairs minister Karl Maron. In a counter letter addressed to the bishops, the minister referred to the launching of the USSR's satellite and described the ceremonies as a means of promoting "scientific education." He said that "the position of science and technics today raises many burning questions to which our young people, irrespective of their philosophy of life, demand an answer." He claimed that the answer could be given only from the point of view of science.

Maron's letter goes on to charge the bishops' message with containing "calumnies against our state and provocative distortions of the situation in the German Democratic Republic." He describes the bishops as forbidden to have dealings with the western "fascist forces . . . which have already taken possession of all the key positions in state, industry and the NATO army, and which, as usual, enjoy the support of many of the leaders of the Evangelical Church." Although the bishops' letter had not been made public in the west, Maron took exception to its alleged publication outside East Germany, where, he said, it would be the object of accusations against "the workers' and peasants' government." He attacked comparison of the Communist-sponsored youth dedication with dedication ceremonies conducted by the Nazis.

WEA Meet Discusses Ways to Cooperate

LONDON—Ways and means of cooperation were discussed by representatives of seventy evangelical groups meeting here in Caxton Hall recently at invitation of the World Evangelical Alliance. Both Lt. Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, who presided, and Rev. Gilbert W. Kirby, secretary, emphasized that it was not the desire nor intention of the Alliance to be other than a "serving" organization. The secretary enumerated several fields in which WEA believes there is room for closer cooperation: Evangelism, production of literature, training of Christian workers, and missionary endeavor.

In the general discussion it was agreed that the Alliance has two special functions to fulfill: (1) It should be a mouthpiece, expressing the general viewpoint of Evangelical Christions; (2) it should be an "umbrella" covering societies similar in outlook and facing comparable problems.

300 Churches Join in Buenos Aires Crusade

BUENOS AIRES—Dr. Oswald J. Smith, Canadian evangelist, said 300 local Protestant churches were cooperating in his two-week crusade here. His opening rally in Luna Park Stadium attracted a capacity crowd of 12,000.

A Salvation Army colonel served as Dr. Smith's interpreter. Most of the Protestant groups cooperating in the crusade are Spanish-speaking. A choir of 250 voices provides music for the rallies.

The crusade continued through Nov. 3 when Dr. Smith moved to Argentina's second-largest city, Rosario.

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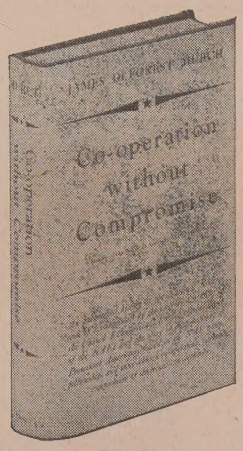

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United Evangelical Action

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personalia

Wendell P. Loveless will become general manager of the radio station recently purchased by the Boca Raton (Fla.) Bible Conference from the Delray Beach Broadcasting Company. Mr. Loveless was for 26 years director of Moody Bible Institute's radio station WMBI before becoming pastor of one of the largest evangelical churches of the Chicago area.

Torrey M. Johnson plans a number of evangelistic campaigns in Europe in the spring and summer of 1958. He will be in Great Britain in January, but will return to the USA to fulfill commitments in February and March.

Harold K. Sheets, Wesleyan Methodist Home Missions secretary, is in Australia where he will address the annual conference and camp meeting services of the denomination and visit churches in Tasmania, Sydney and Brisbane.

Harry D. Clarke, who served for some years as campaign director, song leader and Bible teacher with Evangelist Billy Sunday, died October 14. Dr. Clarke was widely known for his compositions "Ready to Go," "Into My Heart," "Fishers of Men" and "Looking Into the Face of Jesus."

W. L. Thompson, pastor of First Church of Christ, Lock Haven, Pa., has accepted the post of executive secretary of the Christian Missionary Fellowship with headquarters in Chicago.

Theodore W. Taylor of New York City was recently elected general chairman of the Conservative Baptist Churches of the Eastern United States at a three-day conference in Fall River, Mass.

Lars I. Granberg, dean of students and professor of Pastoral Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary, is a member of the Committee on Christian Action of the Reformed Church of America. Dr. Granberg has prepared for distribution by the Commission a 60-page brochure on pre-marital relations.

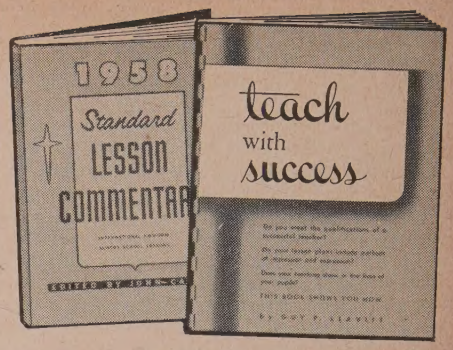
Walter M. Montano, executive director of Christ's mission, Inc., and editor of *The Converted Catholic* magazine, has been appointed honorary consul of Bolivia. The appointment will serve to strengthen the ties between the evangelical forces of the USA and Latin America.

Vernon McLellan, editor of *Christ's Ambassadors Herald* has been appointed managing editor of *Youth for Christ Magazine.*

Kenneth G. Hood, field director for Costa Rica of the Latin American Mission, will return to the USA January 1, 1958 to assume the Mission's Home Directorship.

William Ward Ayer, director of the Marching Truth Broadcast over WABC and other radio stations in the nation, was tendered an Anniversary Dinner in Prince George Hotel, New York City recently, attended by some 300 friends and supporters. Dr. Ayer has had a 30-year radio ministry ministry which has been greatly blessed of God.

Louis Judson Bristow, retired pioneer developer of Baptist hospitals in the South, died in New Orleans November 15 in the great Southern Baptist Hospital which he helped to build.



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